

Fear the Lord

Gen 22:1-19, ESV – After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.”⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of April 28, 2019

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we learned that fear of God leads to obedience during the "tests" of life. What does it mean to "fear God"?
- 2 How does Abraham respond to God's command? How would you respond if you were in Abraham's position?
- 3 What moves God to make a firm, unchangeable oath with Abraham?
- 4 What are the four promises within God's oath? How are those promises significant to us, today?

DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 **Exodus 20:20, ESV** – ²⁰ Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin."

Deut 8:2, ESV – ² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

Deut 13:3-4, ESV – ³ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴ You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

What do the passages above teach us about the testing of God?

Can you share a time when you think God was testing you? How did you respond and what did it teach you about God and/or about yourself?

2 ***Heb 11:17-19, ESV** – ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.*

What does the passage above teach us about Abraham’s perspective on being tested by God?

Why was Isaac so precious to Abraham?

Who or what is your Isaac? Are you willing to give them or it up for God? Explain.

3 ***James 1:2-4, ESV** – ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

James tells us that testing produces steadfastness. How would you describe steadfastness?

How is steadfastness related to fear of God and obedience to God?

TAKING IT HOME

Abraham's certainty of God's promise leads to obedience, which, in turn, leads to a new assurance in God. Do you have the same level of certainty in God's promises? Why or Why not? What needs to happen for you to have this kind of certainty in your life?

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Matt 22:37

Rom 5:3-5

Heb 6:13-18

Heb 11:1-2

James 2:13-14